## THE LION'S SHARE

CHAPTER X. The Smoldering Embers.

bloodhound.

He began to understand

the man whose fixed purpose has own quality, but sharpened by wand suffering. This man had

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The Smoldering Embers.

If Mercer's avowal surprised the colouel, there was no trace of such emotion in his face or his manner. "I rather thought it might be," he said. And our young friend who is promoting Fireless Stoves with the solemn energy he learned doing Dicky

"Mr. Endicott Tracy." Mercer had the manner of a ceremonious introduc-tion. Tracy flavored the clustomary murmur of pleasure with his radiant

"Pleased, I am sure," said the colo-nel in turn, bowing. "Your father, I suppose, is the president of the Mid-land, and Mr. Keatcham will, I sup-pose, not be able to prevent his re-elec-

points; we may make twenty—','
'And my aunt has financed your scheme, has the?—paid all your expenses?','

Mereer. "The meeting was for a day—we don't know why—we fancy that his natthers suspect some stations. It is called for tomorrow, in spite of their efforts to have it put off a week. But we want more; we want to induce Keatcham to vote his own stock for us, and to call off his dogs himself."

"And you can't force him to do it?"

"And you can't force him, easily force him, easily the force him to do the force him to do the force him to the force him to do the f

rougher," "heater," "roller," dur-

ing three years while he was waiting for his chance; of his heart-draining toil; of his solitary studies.

"I never was the kind of fellow to make friends," he said, in his soft, menotonous voice, "so I expect I was the fender of my own kin. I'd a mighty good mother, sir, and sister; and there was Phil—my little brother. We were right happy all together on the old place that's been in our family for a hundred years, and it was all we asked to stay there; but it had every dollar of mortgage it could stand, and the soil all were out, needing all kinds of things; and I wish you could have seen the makeshifts we had for machines! I was blacksmith and carpenter and painter—just sixteen, and

murmor of pleasure with his radiant smile.

"Pleased, I am sure." said the colonel in turn, bowing. "Your father, I suppose, is the president of the Midland, and Mr. Keatcham will, I suppose, not be able to prevent his reefection tomorcow. Is that the game?"

Mr. Tracy's son admitted that it might be.

"Ah, very clever." said the colonel, "very. Any sideshow, for example?"

"I did not go into this for money." Mercer's level gaze did not relax, and be kept his dreary eves unfluedingly on Winter's. A peculiar look in the eyes recalled some tragic and alien memory, just what, Kupert could not capture; it flitted hazily through his thoughts ere the next words dreve it off. "Nevertheless, it is true that if we win out I shall have enough to pay back to all the people who trusted me the money they lost when they were frightened into selling their stock in the Tidewater, and your aunt and Mr. Tracy stand to make money."

"How do you expect to make it?"

"The M. and S. stock is away date the money they lost when they were frightened into selling their stock in the Tidewater, and your aunt and Mr. Tracy stand to make money."

"How do you expect to make it?"

"The M. and S. stock is away date will rise—we are sure of the ten points; we may make twenty—"

"And my aunt has financed your scheme, has the?—paud all your expected were larged and parting on dividends just as regular, and making them, too, though we didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we were honest, we made a didn't do much more—it was closs sailing. But we

"And my aunt has financed your scheme, has the?—paid all your expenses?"

The Harvard man laughed out. "Our expenses? Oh, yes, she has grubstaked us, all right; but she has done a good deal more—she has furnished more than half a million to us for our gamble."

The colonel considered; then: "But why did you keep him here so long beforehand?" said he.

"It was not long beforehand." said Mercer. "The meeting was adjourned for a day—we don't know why—we fancy that his partners suspect some fancy that his partners suspect some fancy that his partners suspect some at the content of the country for fish for his net; he somehow heard that here was a heap of good are and new mills. The first intimation we had was his secretary coming as a northern invalid—why, he stayed at our honse because we were so sorry

"'We shall force him, easily enough," returned Mercer, "but we don't trust him. We want his private code book to be sure he is playing fair, because have to have it, because usual process. Convinced of the value eode book to be sure he is playing fair.
In fact, we have to have it, because nothing gets any attention that isn't, so to speak, ill not give, it to your.''
"Says he has lost it."
"But now, all this is not my concern, except that I have no right, as a soldier, even passively to aid in breaking the haws."
But before he could speak further Mercer lifted a hand in apologica interruption. Would Colonel Winter excuss him, but he must ask Mr. Tracy to go back to the patio and have an exchanged, a single glance before he obeyed. Mercer's eves followed him." It was not to be helped, 'he said, half to himself, 'that I have been sorry more than once that I have been sorry when the sorry of this immore puzzled than he wanted to admit to himself; indeed, he was rather glad to have the next word come from Mercer.

"I have a few things! want to as the more defined and the property Keatcham and on the property. Keatcham and once the property. Keatcham and on the wanted to speak at I have been seen that I have been sorry more than once that I had the property more dealed the sort of the property. Keatcham and on the

when the colonel had seated himself he went on: "I'd like to explain things a bit." 'I'd like to have you," answered the soldier. "I think you have the clue to Archie's whereabouts and don't recognize it yourself; so put me wise, as the slang goes."

Then, without preface, in brief, nervous sentences, spoken hardly with a quiver of a muscle or a wavering cadence of the voice, yet nevertheless instinct with a deadly earnestness. Mercer began to talk. He told of his struggling youth on the drained plantation, mortgaged so that after the interest was paid there was barely enough to get the meagerest living for his mother and sister and little brother; of his accidental discovery of iron ore on the place; of his working as a common laborer in the steel mills; of his being "rooster." 'strand-boy," leaded dice and dope the horses they bet against! Phil had all his property in the mills; we all had. We mortgaged the house; we had to, to protect our stock. You know how the fight ended, and what happened at Cambridge. That isn't all. My wife ——" He stood a little straighter, and the light went out of his eyes. "I told you I don't make friends easily, and I am not the kind of man women take to; all the same, the loveliest girl in the south loved me ever since I jumped over the mill-dam to save her rag doll, once, when she was visiting her and near us. I'd married, when we seemed prosperous. Now, understand me, I don't say it was my rain and Phil's death that killed her and the baby; she had pneumonia, and it may be that seeing that paper by accident didn't turn the scale; but I do say that she had her last hours embered the place; of his working as a common laborer in the steel mills; of his being "rooster." 'strand-boy,' bittered by it. That's enough for me.

**OCTAVE THANET** 

was Endy found out about Atkins, just from my description of him. I found out about Keatcham for myself. And from my description of him. I found out about Keatcham for myself. And you are quite right—for a little while I wanted to kill them both. Looked like I just naturally had to kill them! But there was my mother. There was nothedy to take care of her but Sis and me, and a trial for murder is terribly expensive. Of course, anybody can get off who has got money and can spend it, but it takes such an awful heap of money. And we were all ruined together, for what little was left was all in the company, and that promptly stopped paying dividends. I couldn't risk it. I had to wait. I had to go to work to support my mother, couldn't risk it. I had to wait. I had to go to work to support my mother, to pay Sis and her back, don't you see? We came here. I got a job, a well-paid one, too, through Endy's father, reporting on the condition of the mills—a kind of examiner. And the job was for Keatcham."

"Why did you take it? I know, though. You did it to familiarize him with your appearance, so that he would not be warned when your chance came."

"How did you know that?"
"A man I knew in the Philippines "A man I knew in the Philippines—
a Filipine—was wronged by a white
man, who took his wife and threw her
aside when he tired of her. The girl
killed herself. Her husband watched
his chance for a year, found it as last
—thanks to the very fact that his
victim wasn't on guard against him—
and sent his knife home. He'd been
that fellow's servant. I picked the
dend man up. That Filipino looked as
you looked a minute ago."

"What became of the Filipino?" inmired his listener.

"What became of the Filipino?" inquired his listener.

The colonel had not told the story quite without intention. He argued subconsciously, that if Mercer were a good sort after all, he would have a movement of sympathy for a more cruelly wronged man then he; if not, he would drive ahead to his purpose, whatever that might be. His keen eyes looked a little more wentle as he an

about for a safe chance to kill him, and to kill that spake of an Atkins; to be his secretary in the office; that but then it grew on me; it was all too easy a punishment—just a quick death, when his victims had years of misery. I wanted him to wade through the hell I had to wade through. I wanted him to know why he was condemned. Then it was I began to collect just the cases I knew about—just one little section I knew about—just one little section.

I had to wade through. I wanted him to know why he was condemned. Then it was I began to collect just the cases I knew about—just one little section of the horrible swath of agony and humiliation and poverty and sin he and his crowd had made—the one I knew every foot of, because I'd gone over it every night I wasn't so dead tired I had to sleep. God! do you know what it is to have the people who used to say howdy to you, curse you for a swindler or a fool or turn out of one street and down the other not to pass you? Did you ever have a little woman who used to give you frosted cake when you were a boy push her creps veil off her gray hair and hand you the envelope with her stock, with your bandwriting on the "What have you dobe with Mr." "What have you dobe with Mr. out of one street and down the other not to pass you? Did you ever have a little woman who used to give you frosted cake when you were a boy push her ereps veil off her gray hair and hand you the envelope with her stock, with your handwriting on the envelope, and beg you—trying so hard not to cry, 'twas worse than if she had—beg you to lend her just half her interest money—and you couldn't do it? Did you—never mind. I said I waded through hell. I did! Not I alone—that was the worst—all the people that had trusted me! And just that some rich men should be richer. Why should they have the lion's share? The lion's share belongs to the lion. They are nothing but jackals. They're meaner than jackals, for the jackals take what the lion leaves, and these fellows steal the lion's meat away from him. We made houset morey; we paid housest wages; folks had more, paint on their houses and more meat in their storehouses, and wore better clothes Sunday, and there were more schoolhouses and fewer saloons, and the negroes were learning a trade instead of loafing. The whole county was the better off for our prosperity, and there isn't a mill in the outfit—and I know what I'm talking about—there isn't a shop or a mine that's as well run or makes as big an output now as it did when the old county in the old great and that would be when the old great and that would be when the old great and the obliged to read, and that would be when the old great and the obliged to read, and that would be obliged to read, and that would be obliged to read, and that would be obliged to read, and that would be

shollouses and fever salous, and there were more shoulblouses and fever salous, and the negtoes were learning a trade instead of loafing. The whole county was the better off for our presperity, and there isn't a mill in the outtit—and it know what I'm talking about—there isn't a mill in the outtit—and it know what I'm talking about—there isn't a mill in the outlet isn't a see will run or makes as big an output now as it did when the old crowd was in. You find it, that way overywhere; and that's what is going to break things down. We saw to all the little affairs; they were our affairs, don't you know? But Keatcham's new men draw their sal ries and let things slide. Yet keatch am is a great manager if he would only take the time; only he's too, busy take the time; only he's too, busy there's more money in including one up, of rule way than in building one up, of rule way than in building one up, of rule way than in building one up, of rule isn't a fool; if I could one get him where he would isn't a fool; if I could one get him where he would isn't a fool; if I could one get him where he would instructed in the course is the course of the straight along in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the course of the said promises never to moless there's more money in the course of the said promises never to moless there's more money in the course of the said promises never to moless there's more money in the course of the said promises never to moless there's more money in the course of the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless there's more money in the said promises never to moless the said promises

When I got home with—with Phil, she was dead."

"Tough," said the colonel. He began to revise his impressions of Mercer.

"Wasn't it?" the other asked, with a simplicity of appeal that affected the listener more than anything he had on Tracy. They wanted to steal his.

"Wasn't it?" the other asked, with a simplicity of appeal that affected the listener more than anything he had heard. He jumped out of his chair and began pacing the room, talking more rapidly. "You're a man; you know what I wanted to do."

"Kill somebody. I suppose. I should."

"Just that. I ran Atkins to cover after a while through Endicott Tracy. That boy is one of the noblest fellows that ever lived; yes, suh. He was going to help poor Phil, Phil's room mate had told him. All those boys—look a-here. Colonel Winter, if ever anybody talks to you about Harvard fellows being indifferent—"

"I shall tell him he can't get under the American surface. A Harvard boy will do anything on earth for his friends."

"They were mighty good to me. It was Endy found out about Atkins, just from my description of him. I found for my description of him. I found for a fight a man can with his hands to look where the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the control of a fight a man can with his hands to the care of the car know. We let him put up the best sort of a fight a man can with his hands tied while the other fellow is free. My hands are free, too. I don't respect the damned imbecile laws that let me be plundered any more than they do; and since my poor mother died last summer I am not afraid of anything; they are, that's where I have the choice of weapons. I tell you, sub, nobody is big enough to oppress a desperate man! Keatcham had one advantage—he had unlimited money. But Aunt Rebecca helped us out there. Colonel, I want you to know I didn't ask her for more than the bare grabstake; it was she herself that planned our stock deal." than the bare grobstake; it was si herself that planned our stock deal.

"She is a dead game sport," the colonel chuckled. "I believe you." "And I hope you don't allow that I was willing to have her mix herself in our risks. She would come; she said she wanted to see the fun—"

"I believe you again," the colonel assured him, and he remembered the odd sentence which his aunt had used the first night of their journey, when she expressed her hankering to match her wits against those of a first-class criminal.

"We didn't recken on your turning up, or the complication with Archie. I wish to God we'd taken the boy's own word! But, now you know al' about it, will you keep your hands off? That's all we ask."

That's all we ask."

"Well"—the colonel examined his fingernails, rubbing his hands softly, the back of one over the palm of the other—"well, you haven't quite told me all. Don't, unless you are prepared to have it against you, as the police men say before the sweat-box. What did you do to Keatcham to get him to go with you so like Mary's little lamb?"

"It leaved of a little device that

"I learned of a little device that looks like a tiny currycomb and is so flat and small you can bind it on a man's arm just over an artery. Just

handkerchiof, and Winter caught the gleam of the heads on his sallow fore head. 'It was this way,' he went on. 'At first I was only looking about for a safe chance to kill him, and to kill that soake of an Atkins; but then it gray on me, it was all to

Why couldn't Atkins have stelen it?
He had the chance, and he isn't ham pered by principle, you say.

Mercer frowned, it was plain the consolidity had its argument for him 'He might,' he consoled. 'Dut I doubt it. Why hasn't he done some thing with it? He hasn't. They wouldn't have postponed that meeting if he had wired his proxy and his directious in the code. He'd have voted his employer's stock. He's got too much at stake. I happen to know he thought it a sure tip to sell short, and he has put almost all he bas on it. You see, Keatcham was banking on that; he knew it. He thought Atkins wouldn't dare to give any of his secrets away or go against him in this deal, because they were in the same boat.'

'Still, I recken I'll have to see

while, to send a wire in his secret code saying he has changed his mind. It will not surprise his crowd. He never confides in them, and he expects them to obey blindly anything in that code language. I reckon other telegrams are just for show, and they don't notice them much." Still, I reckon I'll have to see Mercer shook his head, gently but with decinion. "I hate to refuse you, Colonel, but unless you promise not to interfere, it is impossible. But I'll gladly go with you to see if we can find any trace of Archie. I'll risk that much. And if you will promise—" The colonel took a turn around the room to pack away this information in an orderly fashion in his mind. Mercer waited patiently, he had said truly that he was used to waiting. Perhaps he supposed that Winter was trying the case in his own mind; but in reality Rupert was seeking only one clue, as little diverted from his purpose as a bloodhound. He began to understand

Such a promise would be impossible

"Such a promise would be impossible to an officer and a gentleman," the colonel urged lightly, smiling, "Besides, don't you see I have all the cards? I have only to call in my men. I'd hate to do it, but if you force me, you would have no chance resisting," "We shouldn't resist. Colonel, no, suh; your force is overwhelming. But it would do no good; you couldn't find him."

and fevered soul could feel softer emotions, he was kindly intentioned toward the lad. Who had carried him
away, them? Or was he off on his
own account, really, this time? Or
suppose Atkins, the missing secretary,
discharged at Denver, coming back for
another appeal to his employer, finding
Keatcham gone, but, let one say,
stumbling on some trace of the mystery in his departure; suppose him to
consider the chance of his having his
past condoned and a rosy future given
him if his suspicions should prove true
and he should release the captive—
wouldn't such a prospect sour on a
man who was as cunning as he was unprincipled? Mightn't he have watched "We could try; and we may be bet-ter sleaths than you imagine.".
"Then it would be the worse for him; far if you find him, you will find him dead."

him dead."
There was something so chilling in his level tones that Winter broke out sharply: "Are you fooling with me? Have you been such an increalible madman as to kill him already?"
Moreer's faint smile made the colonel feel boyish and impeluous. "Of course not, suh," he answered. "I told you he was alive, myself. I reckoned you knew when a man is lying and when he is telling the solemn with. You know I have told you the truth and treated you on the square. But, just the same, if you try to take wouldn't such a prespect spur on a man who was as cunning as he was unprincipled? Mightn't he have watched all possible clues, and mightn't he have watched all possible clues, and mightn't he have been the house of that would presuppose that Atkins knew that Archie was at the Arnolds' or—no, he might only have seen the boy on the sirect; he knew him by sight; the colonel remembered that several times Archie had been with him in Keatcham's ear. It was worth considering, anyhow. He spoke out of his thoughts: "Do you think Keatcham could have told the truth, and that code of his be lost or stolen?"

Mercer's faint smile made the coloned remembered to the answered. "If told you he was alive, myself. I reckened you knew when a man is lying and when he is telling the solemn ruth. You know I have told you the truth and treated you on the square. But, just the same, if you try to take that man away, you'll only have his dead body. He can't do any more harm then, and a dead man can't you."

The colonel, who had taken out his eigarette ease, opened it and meditar tively fingered the rubber band. "Do You try to take that man away, you'll only have his dead body. He can't do any more harm then, and a dead man can't you."

The colonel, who had taken out his eigarette ease, opened it and meditar tively fingered the rubber band. "Do You try to take that man away, you'll only have his dead body. He can't do any more harm then, and a dead man can't you."

The colonel remembered that the colonel remembered that several times Archie had been with a man away, you'll only have his dead body. He can't do any more harm then, and a dead man can't you."

The colonel remembered that the rubber band in the bath in the propertion. The colone is the propertion of the rubber band in the selemn ruth. You know it have told you the truth and treated you on the square. Is especially valuable during the rubber band in the selemn ruth. You know it have told you the truth and treated you on the square. Is especially valuable to told you the ruth a

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After 45 years' study of Na and her laws along special line ! superior advantages and ability without saying, and I unhesit declare, and my unparalleled in as a successful specialist in prival diseases of men backs up my des that more men have been cared b me of VARICOCELE, RYDIS CELE, NERVO-SEXUAL DESI ITY, BLOOD POISON and H FLEX DISORDERS within the la 35 years than by any twenty sec ists in the United States com This fact is self-evident and in putable, and, with my rates ! reasonable and treatment more cessful, you do wrong to experience with concerns whose methods and ing frequently changed, and wh doctors are the scrapings together transient and defunct concerns Courtesy demands that we me

no names in a newspaper, but II ! come to my office I can furnish a valuable information with the pre-so conclusive that you will not a gard them as selfish arguments

### NERVO-SEXUAL DEBILITY CURED

Nervo-Sexual debility is a term which I use to designate a decline of power in the general system, and in of certain special functions and powers. No matter what the cause, it is always necessary in such cases to defect, we are to the control of rect defects so as to supply the true elements of lost force.

This is the keynote of Nervous Debility, Seminal Weakness, Premature Decline, Lost Power and other w

es, all included under the sweeping term, "Nervo-Sexual Debility." The cure of these infirmities implies the restoration of tene in every organ of the body and the renamil of Nerve impulse of force which governs and controls all organs. I solved this problem a few years ago by study in the life of should be a few years ago by study in the life of should be a few years.

the line of chemistry of the human body, and my discovery was that of means by which I can revitalize the ers of the organism so as to cure Nervo-Sexual Debility in any of its forms or stages of development. In enable the process of nature to remove waste tissue and supply new; with the elements which are added to system go new forces that establish and maintain the natural powers of the body. Thus I cure Nervo-Sexual try to stay cured

#### VARICOCELE AND ITS REMEDY

Scrotal Varicoccie has been described as a creeping disease. It sliently steals upon its victim like a third at a and before he is really aware of its presence great and damaging inroads are made upon his constitution. The surrounding the spermatic cord become enlarged and engoted with impure blood and diseased tissues. At time a condition may be accompanied with a dull, dragging pain in the small of the back, extending down into the part of the service of the sexual powers, and not quently decline of the general health. All these disagreeable symptoms soon disappear completely and forever unity and forever the service of the sexual powers, and not are driven from the infected parts, normal circulation is re-established throughout the pelvic region, the weakest gans become strong again and sturdy manhood is restored.

## REFLEX AND ASSOCIATE DISEASES

Are those which are present and act to aggravate and favor the progress of the main malady. I never dismiss until cured in every particular. If the core is complicated with Hydrocele (dropsy of the acrotum), Hemorrhold, sure, Fistula, or any form of disease. I such additional complaint also, so that the cure may be perfect and manent.

Reflex effects of all polyle complaints are destructive to the tone of the Sympathetic Norves. The debilitation fects on the general health and strength are demonstrated by such manhood sapping agents as Variocele. Sirks Blood Poison and Discharge-producing Virus. I cure both causes and effects and restore men so victimised by the feet of the such as t

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